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ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

Health of the Urban District

OF

SADDLEWORTH

FOR THE YEAR

1937

BY

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Diplomate in Public Health.

Medical Officer of Health.

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

OF

SADDLEWORTH,

1937.

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Mr. A. B. GLASSPOOL.

Sanitary Inspector :

Mr. LEONARD TAYLOR, M.R.SAN.INST., F.R.H.S.

Medical Officer of Health :

Dr. ERNEST A. RAMSDEN, M.R.C.S., D.P.H.



BRIARFIELD,
DOBCROSS,

July, 1938.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Saddleshworth Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Report on the Health of the District for the year, 1937.

Section A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

POPULATION.

The population residing in the Urban District of Saddleshworth is, by the addition of Springhead, now 17,300.

The District is situated on the out-skirts of the Mid Pennines, and has an area of 18,485 acres, of which 1,555 form the old Springhead. Included in its area there is a large extent of unenclosed moorland.

The District is a very hilly one; the highest hill is 1774 feet, at Black Chew Head, whilst the minimum elevation above sea level is near Greenfield, being about 500 feet. The hills, covered as they are by extensive moors, form the gathering grounds for much water, which, running down the various valleys, forms the River Tame. This river, arising near Denshaw, runs in an S curve from north to south to Greenfield, receiving on its way down, on its left, brooks from the Castleshaw, Diggle, Pickhill, and Greenfield Valleys in order. The Greenfield Brook is joined, as it descends from Bill's o' Jacks, by a large stream, the Chew Brook, on its left. Springhead is chiefly built on the land sloping downwards from High Moor to the Medlock Valley.

The District lies chiefly on the Millstone Grit. Near Grains Bar, there is a seam of poor coal, and shales are common in the hills bordering the Castleshaw and Denshaw Valleys.

Scattered at intervals of about a mile in the main valley of the Tame are the various villages. Each village is a centre of manufacture, whilst on the hillsides farming is carried on. The chief manufactures are those of woollen goods, though there is one large electrical meter works and also a loom works, in addition to several printing and bleaching works, and one paper mill.

RATES.

During 1937 the rates were 13/- in the £. The Rateable Value of the District was £96,116, and a penny rate realises £371.

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES.

The number of inhabited houses is 5727, of which 4437 are erected to house the working classes.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS
OF THE YEAR.

BIRTHS.

			Male	Female	Total
Live Births	{ Legitimate	...	104	105	209
	{ Illegitimate	...	2	4	6
	Total	...	106	109	215
Still Births	...	...	8	4	12

Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 12·42

Still Births, rate per 1,000 total births (live and still) ... 55·9

DEATHS.

Male	Female	Total
110	121	231

Death-rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population 13·35

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis, Nil. Deaths from other Puerperal causes, 2. Giving a Death-rate from these causes per 1,000 live and still-births of 8·7.

Death-rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live-births...	...	32·5
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 live-births..		32·5
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 live-births.		Nil

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	22
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	Nil

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF MORTALITY.

Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	...	...	...	0
Measles	...	...	...	0
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	0
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	0
Diphtheria	...	...	...	1
Influenza	...	...	...	13
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	0
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	...	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System (Phthisis)	...	...	...	9
Other Tubercular Diseases	...	...	...	2
Syphilis	...	...	...	1
General Paralysis of the Insane and Tabes	...	...	...	1
Cancer, Malignant Disease	...	...	...	22
Diabetes	...	...	...	2
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc	...	...	...	11
Heart Disease	...	...	...	62
Aneurism	...	...	...	1
Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	19
Bronchitis	...	...	...	6
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	10
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	4
Peptic Ulcer	...	...	...	3
Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	0
Appendicitis	...	...	...	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	0
Other Liver Diseases	...	...	...	1
Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	3
Nephritis (Acute and Chronic)	...	...	...	16
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	0
Other Puerperal Diseases	...	...	...	2
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth	...	...	...	7
Senility	...	...	...	5
Suicide	...	...	...	1
Other Violence	...	...	...	9
Other Defined Diseases	...	...	...	16
Ill-defined Diseases	...	...	...	2

Total from all causes... 231

The following Table gives a general idea of the Health of Saddleworth compared to the rest of the Country :—

Rate per 1,000 population :

	England and Wales	125 County Boroughs & Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns Popul'n 25,000 to 50,000	London Administrative County	Saddleworth 1937	Springhead 1936	Saddleworth 1936
BIRTHS—							
Live	14'9	14'9	15'3	13'3	12'42	13'95	11'8
Still	0'60	0'67	0'64	0'54	0'69	0'62	0'71
DEATHS—							
All Causes ...	12'4	12'5	11'9	12'3	13'35	14'37	13'57
Typhoid and Paratyphoid ...	—	0'01	—	—	—	—	—
Small-pox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	0'02	0'03	0'02	0'01	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever...	0'01	0'01	0'01	0'01	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	0'04	0'04	0'03	0'06	—	0'20	—
Diphtheria ...	0'07	0'08	0'05	0'05	0'05	—	0'07
Influenza ...	0'45	0'39	0'42	0'38	0'75	0'2	0'16
Violence ...	0'54	0'45	0'42	0'51	0'57	0'40	0'42

Rate per 1,000 live births :

Deaths under 1 year of age ...	58	62	55	60	32'5	30'0	54
Deaths from Diarrhœa and Enteritis (under 2 years of age) ..	5'8	7'9	3'2	12'0	—	—	?

Section B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE DISTRICT.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

Saddleworth draws largely on the services of the General Infirmaries at Manchester, Oldham, Ashton, and to a lesser degree on Huddersfield Infirmary, for its more serious cases. Also there is an increasing tendency for mothers to go to Hospitals or Nursing Homes for their confinements.

As regards Infectious Diseases, most of the cases are sent out of the district to neighbouring Fever Hospitals at the expense of the Local Authority, except that with regard to Smallpox, we have a special Hospital at Runninghill which luckily is very rarely used. For patients, who, on account of their chronic illness and circumstances, are not fitting patients for General Hospitals, there is the Dean Head Institution.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

A Child Welfare Centre has sessions every Wednesday, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. or thereabouts. This is held at the Mechanics' Institute, Uppermill. The School Nurses and Medical Officer attend each session.

There is also a Child Welfare Centre at Springhead, held every Thursday at the Springhead Congregational School, at 2 p.m.

At the Uppermill Clinic, total number of attendances for 1937, were :—

Children under 1 year	...	1555
„ 1 to 5 years	...	1920

Total number who attended for first time :—

Under 1 year	... 99	Over 1 year	... 2
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78 children under 1 year and 153 children over 1 year were in attendance at the end of the year.

At the Springhead Centre, attendances during 1937, were :—

Babies	... 3284	Mothers	... 2827
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The average attendances of Babies weekly was 70, and that of Mothers 60.

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS.

These services are also provided by the County Council. One is held every fourth Thursday of the month at the Mechanics' Hall, Uppermill, at 2 p.m., and the other one every second Monday in the month, at the Springhead Congregational School.

At the Uppermil Clinic, Ante-Natal attendances were 112; Post-Natal 4. Total number of Mothers who attended Ante-Natal 46; Post-Natal 4.

HOME NURSING.

Delph and Dobcross continue to employ a District Nurse who attends ill people at their homes and does Midwifery. In the same way Uppermill and Diggle employ another Nurse. Greenfield has a District Nurse of its own. All these Nurses attend Midwifery Cases. Even then these Nurses do not "tap" the whole district. Denshaw, for example, has no District Nurse. Your Council allows an annual grant of £30 to the corresponding Associations for the upkeep of these Nurses, but generally speaking it is the support given by the working classes to the Associations which enables the services to be kept up. Springhead also has a District Nurse who is similarly supported.

There are also two Nurses working for the County Council, who attend the Pre-Natal and Child Welfare Centres, at Uppermill and Springhead, and visit the newly-born children after the ordinary nurses and doctors have ceased to supervise these cases.

Springhead has a Midwife who attends cases also in Denshaw. She is wholly employed in Midwifery, and undertakes work in Lees and surrounding districts, and is employed by the Lancashire County Council, who pay the expenses of her car.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Saddleworth has now arranged with Mossley Corporation for an Ambulance Service, which is run from the Fire Station, Mossley. The service is very good and is a great improvement on that of former years. Infectious cases are removed to hospital by the Saddleworth Ambulance.

Some parts of Springhead use the Oldham Police Ambulance for accidents and the Ambulance of the Oldham Infirmary for removal of cases to be admitted to the Hospital.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

There are provided by the County Council Laboratories at Wakefield, where pathological material is examined, free of charge, for suspected Diphtheria, Tubercle, and Typhoid Fever. Also the water and milk supplies are examined from time to time.

ADOPTIVE ACTS IN FORCE.

Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890.

Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890, Parts II. and III.

Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907, except Sections 67, II., III. and IV.

Private Street Works Act, 1892.

Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1898.

Section C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES
OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

Saddleworth is so extremely well supplied with water that the neighbouring towns have constructed large reservoirs in the various valleys. The Oldham Corporation has reservoirs at Castleshaw, Dowry, New Year's Bridge, Crook Gate, and Readycon Dene. The Ashton, Stalybridge and Dukinfield (District) Joint Committee have constructed two reservoirs in the Greenfield Valley, and a third one in the Chew Valley; this, however, is only intended for Compensation Water. In the Diggle valley are also reservoirs which feed the Huddersfield Canal.

It is chiefly from the reservoirs in the Greenfield Valley that Saddleworth is supplied with water, although the Oldham Corporation supplies a few houses at Denshaw.

The old Springhead obtains its water from Oldham Corporation and Ashton, Stalybridge and Dukinfield Waterworks.

The supply of water is a continuous one and should be extended, if possible, to all houses that are supplied by wells in which the water becomes either muddy in rainy weather or is deficient in quantity after a slight drought.

In some of the more highly situated parts of the District the water pressure has not been sufficient formerly to supply houses, but this has now been remedied by a Booster Installation erected at Brownhill Bridge.

The water from these moor reservoirs is naturally plumbo-solvent, so special treatment has been adopted (Alumino-ferric and Chalk with subsequent filtration through Pressure Filters).

The number of houses supplied with water from the mains is 4,399, of which 3,076 are supplied by the Ashton, Stalybridge and Dukinfield Joint Waterworks Board, and 1,323 by the Oldham Corporation. In addition 1,303 houses, more or less, are supplied by springs or wells; of these, 153 are in Greenfield, 87 in Uppermill, 342 in Delph, 48 in Grasscroft, 172 in Diggle, 161 in Dobcross, 176 in Denshaw and 164 in Springhead.

Two analytical and bacteriological examinations of the public water have been made during the year, and each has proved satisfactory.

SEWERAGE, SEWAGE AND TRADE-WASTE DISPOSAL.

The Sewerage of the Saddleworth District consists of a main line of sewers roughly following the direction of the river Tame from Delph to the new Sewage Disposal Works at Greenfield, which picks up as branch sewers the main sewers of the districts of Denshaw, Delph, New Delph, Dobcross, Diggle, Uppermill, and Greenfield, all of which gravitate to the new Sewage Disposal Works, Greenfield. The remaining areas of Grasscroft and Shaw Hall Bank cannot gravitate to the new works owing to difficulties in level and the canal crossing, which is overcome by the pumping station at Royal George at the south west of the district.

One can only give a general idea of the sewers. Briefly the main sewer from Delph to the Sewage Works varies in diameter from 12 inch to 27 inch, increases in the pipe diameters taking place at points where the various district mains are picked up. The 9 inch branch main from Denshaw and the various branches from Delph enter the 12 inch main sewer at Rasping Mill, Delph. The various mains from New Delph enter the 15 inch main sewer near Delph Station. The 6 inch branch main from Dobcross enters the 18 inch main near the Woolpack Inn, Dobcross. The 12 inch branch main from Diggle enters the 18 inch main near Brownhill Bridge Saw Mill. The various branches from Uppermill enter the 21 inch main sewer at Wade Lock, Uppermill, and the 18 inch branch main with its connections from Greenfield enters the 27 inch main sewer at the old Sewage Disposal Works on the left bank of the river Tame. The 27 inch main sewer crosses the river Tame near to the junction with Chew Valley Brook.

The Shaw Hall Bank sewer is 7 inches in diameter and increases to 12 inches after picking up the 9 inch branch mains of Shaw Hall and Grasscroft areas, and continues to the Royal George Pumping Station a 12 inch sewer.

At the Royal George Pumping Station there are three pumps, two of which have 3,509 gallons per minute capacity driven by 18 h.p. electric motors, and one of 1,509 gallons per minute capacity driven by a 5 h.p. electric motor, all of which are automatic float controlled. All the sewage flows to one sump or well in which the floats are fixed at different levels according to the size of pump and period of entering. In normal day periods the small pump is more than adequate for the flow and only works at intervals, but in the event of an increase in the flow, caused by rain, storms, etc., which this pump cannot control, the water level in the well rises and engages the float of one of the larger pumps which is

immediately brought into commission and the small pump is cut out by an automatic control. If the storm or rate of flow continues to rise with the the larger pump working the float of the second large pump is engaged and this pump also brought into commission, which continues to run with the other large pump as long as this rate of flow continues. As and when the flow is reduced the reverse order takes place with the lowering of the water level in the well until the normal flow persists when the small pump again resumes control. The sewage from the Pumping Station is pumped to the works at Shaw Hall Bank through 8 inch cast iron pipes for treatment along with the sewage from the other districts.

I owe this description of the sewerage of Saddleworth to the kindness of Mr. A. Barker, the manager of the works.

SEWERAGE EXTENSIONS.

There have been no important extensions of the sewerage this year.

Among areas still requiring sewerage one may mention Diglee, Shaw Lee, Shaws, Higher Kinders, Tunstead, Royal George, and Burnedge.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No action has been taken to prevent the pollution of rivers and streams.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

In all the newer houses, water-carriage is adopted where possible, otherwise the Sanitary Pail is used.

The mills are, for the most part, adequately provided with accommodation.

The water closets numbered 4285, and the waste water closets 602. On the pail system there are 691. The number of closets constructed in 1937 for new houses was 80.

SCAVENGING.

96 Ashpits serving 235 houses were abolished during the year, and a corresponding number of dust-bins have been substituted. Thus these houses are now served weekly, whereas previously their refuse was removed monthly.

The scavenging is done by 12 men with three covered waggons for the removal of household refuse, and one special waggon for night-soil.

The night-soil is now emptied into the sewers at Brown Hill Bridge.

The household refuse is disposed of by "Controlled Tipping" at Brownhill, Hull Mill, Delph; Saddleworth Fold; Frenches, Greenfield; Royal George; Marsh Head, Diggle, and Cooper Street, Springhead.

Approximately 4,000 dust-bins and 684 sanitary pails are cleansed weekly. The larger business premises, such as grocers, butchers, fruiterers, etc., are visited three or four times a week. Altogether some 66 loads of refuse are removed weekly.

SWIMMING BATH.

An "Open-air Swimming Bath" has been recently opened. It is about 75 yards in length and 20 yards wide, constructed with concrete floor, and provided with suitable dressing and lavatory accommodation. The water, obtained from an adjoining stream, is filtered, heated and chlorinated. From time to time the water is examined, and such examinations have proved satisfactory.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Number of smoke observations, each of 30 minutes duration, taken during 1937	...	...	...	36
Number of above showing excessive emission of black smoke	...	...	...	3
Number of Cautions issued	...	...	...	6
Number of Statutory Notices issued	...	...	...	3
Number of Prosecutions	...	...	...	Nil
Miscellaneous Nuisances under the Factory Act, dealt with	...	...	...	17

In the district there are 27 Bakehouses, 49 Woollen Spinning and other Factories, including 1 Ironfoundry and 1 large Electrical Meter Works.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

No Council Houses were found to be infested. Only one other house was infested, and this was disinfected. The method used was that of stoving with Formalin Vapour. The furniture and other belongings of the tenant were put in a special van and Cimex used. This was carried out by a Manchester contractor.

SCHOOLS.

The sanitary conditions and water supplies of the Schools are quite good. On account of the Influenza Epidemic certain Schools were closed for a week, but were thoroughly fumigated before being re-opened.

REFUSE DESTRUCTION.

No Refuse Destructor is provided in the District.

MORTUARY.

The Mortuary in Uppermill fulfils a want long felt in the District. There is also another Mortuary at the Springhead Council Offices.

The two following Tables are copied from the Annual Report issued for 1937 by Mr. M. T. B. Whitson, B.Sc., A.M. Inst. C.E., and relate (1) to a monthly comparison of the Rainfall for 1937; (2) to a yearly comparison of the figures of the various stations under the jurisdiction of the Ashton, Stalybridge and Dukinfield (District) Waterworks Joint Committee.

(1) MONTHLY RAINFALL, 1936.

Diameter of Gauge Height of Gauge above ground level Altitude of Gauge above ordnance datum in feet	5 in. 1 ft. 0in. 784	5 in. 1 ft. 0in. 1018	5 in. 1 ft. 0in. 1581	5 in. 1 ft. 0in. 1518	5 in. 1 ft. 0in. 1578	5 in. 1 ft. 0in. 1648
	Greenfield					
	Yeoman Hey Reservoir	Birchen Clough	Ashway Moss	Upper Wood	Chew Mount	Chew Reservoir
Names of places at which the Gauges are stationed.	Ins. 5.05 8.25 4.20 3.58 3.43 2.43 3.20 1.50 2.35 3.00 2.89 3.94	Ins. 5.19 8.49 4.21 3.77 3.17 2.35 3.66 1.63 2.68 2.34 3.06 3.85	Ins. 5.56 8.89 4.35 4.02 3.55 2.52 3.70 1.71 2.78 3.56 3.26 4.05	Ins. 5.40 8.65 4.48 3.83 3.41 2.57 3.87 1.92 2.18 3.73 3.13 4.41	Ins. 4.85 9.85 6.15 4.16 3.58 2.98 4.32 1.58 2.56 3.12 2.71 4.02	Ins. 5.92 11.19 6.30 4.93 3.42 3.23 4.69 1.66 2.89 3.25 2.98 4.63
	Totals ...	43.82	45.40	47.95	47.58	55.09
	Number of rainy days ...	209	—	—	—	—
	Maximum fall in one day ...	1.26	—	—	2.90	—
	Yearly average ...	504.6	52.97	38.90	47.42	56.24

(2) ANNUAL RAINFALL, 1887 to 1937.

Stations.	Greenfield.				Chew.	
	Yeoman Hey Reservoir.	Birchen Clough	Ashway Moss	Upper Wood	Chew Mount	Chew Reservoir
*	784	1018	1581	1518	1578	1648
†	5in.	5 in.	5in.	5 in.	5 in.	5in.
Year	Ins.	Ins.	Ins.	Ins.	Ins.	Ins.
1937 ...	43.82	45.40	47.95	47.58	49.88	55.09
1936 ...	54.73	56.51	53.37	52.97	55.59	58.78
1935 ...	52.48	52.22	43.17	48.63	54.82	61.06
1934 ...	41.41	46.19	41.20	42.08	46.04	51.95
1933 ...	36.67	39.32	35.65	37.28	38.03	40.23
1932 ...	48.86	51.17	45.32	48.13	53.41	57.70
1931 ...	63.69	65.16	58.69	61.33	66.45	71.64
1930 ..	60.07	57.38	55.65	55.28	65.25	66.34
1925 ...	49.97	50.50	40.42	46.66	51.64	50.08
1920 ...	60.51	62.02	45.96	58.14	60.15	60.55
1915 ...	52.40	54.02	38.92	47.21	44.31	46.77
1910 ...	54.52	62.12	48.10	51.87	56.36	
1905 ...	45.20	51.70	39.00		50.00	
1900 ...	54.60	56.50	43.10	no gauge	53.80	
1895 ...	48.80	49.90	26.70		45.30	
1890 ...	47.80	45.30	31.50	42.40	49.90	
1887 ...	34.10	32.50	22.20	27.90	32.70	

*Altitude in feet above ordnance datum.

†Diameter of gauge in inches.

Section D.

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

I.—INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

1	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	399
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	898
2	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	359
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	818
3	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses needing further action	238
	(b)	Number of dwelling-houses considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be totally unfit for human habitation ...	178
	(c)	Number (excluding those sub-head 3 (a) above) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	60

II.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	6
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III.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

A—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 9, 10, and 16, HOUSING ACT, 1936.

1	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	1
2	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	0
	(a) By owners	1
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	0

B—PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

1	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	40
2	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices ...	26
	(a) By owners	26
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	0

C—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 11 and 13,
OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936.

1	Number of representations, etc., made in respect of dwelling-houses unfit for human habitation...	11
2	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	1
3	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	1

D—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 12 OF THE
HOUSING ACT, 1936.

1	Number of separate tenements or under-ground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	5
2	Number of separate tenements or under-ground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenements or under-ground rooms having been rendered fit ...	0

IV.—UNHEALTHY AREAS.

During the year the Council declared the under-mentioned 23 areas to be Clearance Areas :

1. Castleshaw, Delph	13. Sunfield, Diggle
2. Old Hey, Delph	14. Lee Cross, Diggle
3. Cobblers Hill, Delph	15. Round Hill, Dobcross
4. Millcroft, Delph	16. Woods Lane, Dobcross
5. Grange, Delph	17. Crib Lane, Dobcross
6. Midgrove, Delph	18. Marsh Bottom, Denshaw
7. Millgate, Delph	19. Spurn Lane, Diggle
8. Bell Yard, Delph	20. High Stile, Dobcross
9. Hill End, Delph	21. Platt Hill, Dobcross
10. Woolroad, Dobcross	22. Den Lane, Uppermill
11. Woolroad, Dobcross	23. Platts Yard, Uppermill
12. Ambrose, Diggle	

The Minister of Health confirmed 16 of the above-mentioned Orders, comprising a total of 48 houses having a total population of 116. The remaining 7 areas are still sub-judice.

V.—NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING 1937.

(a) By the Local Authority	...	...	...	79
(b) By Private Enterprise	...	...	...	80
				<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	159

VI.—HOUSING CONDITIONS.

- 1 Total number of houses in the District ... 5727
- 2 Number of working-class houses included in above
(under £20 gross) ... (Estimated) 4437
- 3 General observations as to Housing conditions, over-crowding, and shortage of houses.

The Council's Over-crowding Survey shows a figure of 62 families over-crowded (as per the Housing Act, 1936, standard.)

- 4 Housing Schemes projected by the Local Authority.

The Council have considered and adopted Housing Schemes in pursuance of Slum Clearance Re-housing as under :—

- (a) Cooper Street, Springhead, 20 houses which are completed.
- (b) Carr Cote, Delph, 81 houses, 49 houses completed.
- (c) Sunfield, Diggle, 32 houses, 10 houses completed.
- (d) Denshaw, 32 houses in course of erection.

Further Schemes, comprising 60 houses at Uppermill, 20 at Dobcross, 32 at Greenfield and 36 at Cooper Street, Springhead, are under consideration, and building is likely to take place in the near future.

The Council is a member of the Oldham and Regional Town Planning Committee.

VII.—HOUSING ACT, 1936, PART IV, OVER-CROWDING.

- (a) 1 Number of dwellings over-crowded at the end of
the year ... 62
- 2 Number of families dwelling therein ... 68
- 3 Number of persons dwelling therein ... 409
- (b) Number of new cases of over-crowding reported
during the year ... 0
- (c) 1 Number of cases of over-crowding relieved during
the year ... 2
- 2 Number of persons concerned in such cases ... 16

ACTIVITY IN BUILDING NEW HOUSES FOR THE WORKING CLASSES IN THE DISTRICT.

For the information of the Council I give the number of new houses built in the undermentioned years :—

1925—65 ; 1926—78 ; 1927—54 ; 1928—40 ; 1929—71 ;
1930—33 ; 1931— 8 ; 1932—41 ; 1933—57 ; 1934—67 ;
1935—88 ; 1936—133 ; 1937—159 ;

FITNESS OF HOUSES.

The Ministry of Health have indicated in their Manual on Unfit Houses a standard of house the conditions of which are regarded as the minimum requirements for a fit house.

Thus a fit house should be :

- (1) free from serious dampness
- (2) satisfactorily lighted and ventilated
- (3) properly drained, and provided with adequate sanitary conveniences, also with sink and arrangements for slop water
- (4) in good general repair

It should also have

- (5) a satisfactory water supply
- (6) adequate washing accommodation
- (7) adequate facilities for preparing and cooking food, and
- (8) a well-ventilated store-room for food.

In considering the fitness of a house for human habitation your Housing Inspector and myself try to take these points into consideration to the best of our ability, and should we decide that the houses (2 or more) are unfit, we merely refer them later to the opinion of the Ministry of Health Inspector, who holds an impartial enquiry, when the owner is able to state what he can do with the houses to bring them up to standard.

Section E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

Saddleworth is naturally self-supporting as regards this valuable food. It also sends large supplies to the neighbouring towns.

In spite of milk being such a valuable food, it is also one that has to be carefully watched. Cows are unfortunately liable to Tuberculosis and the milk of such infected animals is capable of giving the disease to children. Also milk has been sometimes the means of causing certain epidemics, the principal of which are Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Typhoid, Undulant Fever and Epidemic Sore Throat. Your district has been carefully watched, and in spite of the potential dangers of milk, there has been absolutely no case of disease that has been traced to milk.

I understand that of every four months, about 14 full days are spent in examining the dairies, cowsheds and cattle by the Assistant County Veterinary Inspector and the Sanitary Inspector.

There are 1,490 milk cows in district, 133 cow-keepers and 168 cowsheds.

In the year 384 cowshed inspections were made

Under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936, there were 8 licenses in force for the production of "Accredited" milk.

The milk was bacteriologically examined 8 times and found to be satisfactory.

There is no production of Certified milk (Tuberculin tested animal)s, nor is there any production of Pasteurised milk.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

There are 18 slaughter-houses, of which 5 are registered and 13 licensed. These are frequently inspected. There is no public abattoir in the district.

About 45 cattle (excluding cows), 10 calves, 200 sheep and lambs, and 20 pigs are killed weekly.

Ten cows were destroyed under the provision of the Tuberculosis Order.

BAKEHOUSES.

73 inspections have been made at the 27 Bakehouses situated within the district. None of these are situated underground, and the general condition has proved satisfactory.

FOOD INSPECTION.

24 cwt. of beef and offal, and 35 cwt. of fish, fruit and vegetables were destroyed during the year as unfit for human consumption.

Section F.**INFECTIOUS DISEASE****Incidence and Control.**

The following table gives information of the Notifiable Diseases occurring in Saddleworth during 1937 :—

Notifiable Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox ...	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever ...	11	6	0
Diphtheria ...	15	8	0
Enteric Fever ...	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever ...	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	0	0	0
Pneumonia ...	5	0	0
Erysipelas ...	6	1	0
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	2	2	1

One case of Undulant Fever occurred during the year. The man was admitted to the Royal Infirmary, Manchester, where the diagnosis was confirmed.

Influenza was very prevalent in January and February, and particularly amongst school children. Several schools were closed for a week in order to combat the Epidemic and the premises disinfected.

DIPHTHERIA.

Saddleworth parents have fully appreciated the County Council's provision of free Protective Inoculation against Diphtheria. This offer was very largely taken advantage of in 1935, when the Scheme started, but in 1936 and 1937 there were naturally not the same number of cases that required this preventive treatment.

Number of children receiving the Preventive Treatment :—

	1935	1936	1937
Dobcross School ...	75	9	14
Diggle School ...	120	24	10
Uppermill Parochial School ...	66	0	13
Uppermill Council School ...	120	19	16
Greenfield School ...	100	26	22
Delph Wesleyan School ...	0	24	0
Denshaw School ...	0	21	17
Delph Council School...	Information not Available		26
Friarmere Infants School			7
St. Mary's Church School			
Greenfield ...			15
Total ...	481	123	140

It is interesting to note that no Diphtheria has occurred in any of the children so treated.

There is little doubt that this mass immunisation should be continued yearly, and that we should aim to get the entire child population so protected.

It is also very important to inoculate children of pre-school age, from two years onward.

It may be of interest to the Council and the general public to have some idea of this Protective Inoculation.

It must be sharply distinguished from the anti-diphtheria serum (or anti-toxin) given in the actual treatment of Diphtheria and in contact cases, which only confers an immunity lasting for about a fortnight.

In the procedure of protective inoculation the child is given, by injection into the muscle, a dose of the Diphtheria poison combined with its antidote. This is done three times altogether, at either week or fortnightly intervals. As time goes on, the child slowly develops an immunity to the disease which may last for years and sometimes throughout life, in any case lasting throughout the time when the child is most susceptible.

INCIDENCE OF DIPHTHERIA.

Old Saddleworth :—

1932 and 1933— 9 cases notified.

1934 and 1935—49 cases notified.

1936—11 cases notified.

New Saddleworth—

1937—15 cases notified.

The Council has just authorised the free provision of Diphtheria Anti-toxin for the use of Saddleworth residents on the approval of the Medical Officer of Health. Supplies are available at the Council Offices, Springhead & Uppermill.

TUBERCULOSIS.

There is a Clinic for the diagnosis and treatment of this disease, which meets on the first and third Thursdays of the month at the Court Street Dispensary, Uppermill.

This work is amplified by X Ray investigation at Sowerby Bridge, and also at Oldham Infirmary.

Laboratory diagnosis of Phthisis and other Tubercular diseases, and the examination of milk is undertaken at the County Council Laboratories at Wakefield.

At the end of the year there were on Register (Tuberculosis) :—

57 male and 47 female cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

22 male and 28 female cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

During the year 18 new cases were notified, of which 6 males and 5 females were Pulmonary, and 3 males and 4 females Non-Pulmonary.

There were 9 deaths from the Pulmonary cases and 2 deaths from other Tubercular diseases.

In conclusion, I append the Report of the Sanitary Inspector, to whom and to the Housing Inspector I wish to express my thanks for their assistance during the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

ERNEST A. RAMSDEN.

ANNUAL REPORT OF
INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES
FOR YEAR ENDING 1937.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council
of Saddleworth.*

GENTLEMEN,

During the course of inspection, throughout the past year, of various premises within the district, many nuisances have been discovered, dealt with, and abated, in accordance with the Public Health Acts and Bye-Laws.

In reviewing the work undertaken, it would seem that the past year has been actively spent in abolishing insanitary conditions, and initiating measures to contribute to the health and general welfare of the district.

The Report does not show all the work that a Sanitary Inspector is called upon to carry out, for much time is expended interviewing owners of property and discussing with them suggested sanitary amendments, in lieu of serving notices to enforce the work being done. By this method a large number of nuisances are abated, with less tendency to friction arising from the parties concerned.

The number of informal notices served during the year, in respect to nuisances and defective sanitary arrangements, is 503. Many of the preliminary notices were complied with within a reasonable time after service of notice, but in 69 cases it was found necessary to serve legal notices for the abatement thereof.

The amount of refuse could be considerably lessened if householders would burn in their own grates the waste paper and vegetable and other matter, as this almost invariably finds its way into the receptacle, with the result that it rapidly becomes objectionable, thereby becoming a factor in causing infectious and other diseases.

PARTICULARS of Work done in compliance with Notices
which have received attention.

	Notified 1937	Abated 1937	Unabated 1937
Accumulation of Ashes, and filthy matter lying exposed	10	10	0
Defective Ashpits	116	96	20
No. of Ashbins ordered	281	235	46
Defective Drainage	94	92	2
House drains connected to sewer.....	103	83	20
Water Closets repaired and cleansed ...	55	51	4
No. of Water Closets ordered to be erected	204	146	58
No. of Earth Closets converted to Pail Closets	2	2	0
No. of Pails converted to Fresh water carriage	1	1	0
Defective Sanitary Pails.....	52	42	10
Structural Defects, i.e., closets, doors, ashpits, doors, fall pipes, gutters, and spouting, internal walls and ceilings, etc.	303	263	40
Insufficient Water Supply	64	45	19
Pollution of Drinking Water.....	6	6	0
Filthy matter lying about on Farms ...	24	24	0
Yards cleansed.....	22	22	0
Factories & Workshops	17	13	0
	<u>1354</u>	<u>1135</u>	<u>219</u>

STATEMENT AS TO HOUSES IN THE DISTRICT AND THEIR
SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

No. of Houses	...	...	...	...	...	5727
Factories, Workshops, Lock-up Shops, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	186
Pail Closets	...	...	...	...	...	691
Water Closets	...	...	...	...	...	4285
Waste Water Closets	...	...	...	...	...	628
Earth Closets	...	...	...	...	...	88
Ashpits (covered and open)	...	...	...	...	...	295
Ashbins	...	...	...	...	...	4014

146 New Water Closets were erected to old property.

80 Water Closets were provided to new property.

2 Pail Closets were converted to water carriage.

3 Earth Closets were converted to Pail system.

Where sewers and water supply are available the whole of the Pail Closets have been converted into Clean Water Closets.

BATHING POOL.

There is a privately owned Bathing Pool in the district which is open to the public. The Pool is about 75 yards in length and 20 yards wide, suitable dressing and lavatory accommodation. The water is obtained from an adjoining stream and is filtered and chlorinated.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

The following Premises come under this designation :

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	27
Boot, Shoe and Clog Repairers	...				21
Cotton Spinning and Weaving Mills					49
Joiners and Builders	...	...			23
Laundries	...	...	...		2
Motor Repairs—Garages	...	...			14
Printers	...	...	...	...	3
Wheelwrights and Shoeing Forge	...				9
Milliners and Dressmakers	...	...			9
Saddlers	...	...	...	...	1
Tailoring, Ladies and Gents...	...				1
Watchmakers and Jewellers	...	...			1
Tinsmiths	...	...	...	...	3
Plumbers	...	...	...	...	6
Umbrella Repairers	...	...	...		2
Welding and Brass Founders	...				3
Electricians	...	...	...		6
Ironfounders	...	...	...	...	3
Dentist	...	...	...	...	1
Cycle Stores	...	...	...	...	2
Total					186
Licences to keep Petroleum Spirit	...				33
Do. Carbide of Calcium	...				2

SUMMARY of HOUSING CONDITIONS, YEAR ENDED
DECEMBER 31st, 1937.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area	...	...	...	...	...	18,485 Acres
Population (Census 1931)	...	...	...	...	...	17400
Number of Inhabited Houses, March 31st, 1937	...	...	...	...	...	5727
Rateable Value March 31st, 1936	...	...	...	...	...	£96,116
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£371

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

The following are registered under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922 :

No. of Wholesale Traders	...	...	...	9
No. of Registered Dairies	...	...	...	10
No. of Cowkeepers	...	...	...	133
No. of Registered Cowkeepers	...	...	...	124
No. of Registered Purveyors of Milk	...	...	...	150
No. of Accredited Milk Farms	...	...	...	8
Approximate No. of Milk Cows	...	...	...	1490

During the year 314 visits were made along with the County Veterinary Surgeon to Dairies and Cowsheds within the district. The notices served upon the responsible persons for the removal of filthy matter lying about were 33, and 121 notices were served with reference to limewashing.

3753 cows were examined, 10 samples taken for bacteriological examination, 10 cows were destroyed under the provision of the Tuberculosis Order.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are 18 private Slaughter Houses in the District. The premises are visited at regular intervals, but always, if possible, when slaughtering is taking place. The Slaughter Houses and lairs are kept in a fairly satisfactory condition.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

All premises used for Tripe-boiling have been inspected several times during the year, and lime-washing has been regularly carried out in them.

FOOD INSPECTION.

Considerable time has been spent in food inspection. 24 cwt. of beef and offal and 35 cwt. of fish, fruit and vegetables were destroyed as unfit for human consumption and buried on the Council's tip.

SMOKE OBSERVATIONS.

The observations of smoke emitted from mill chimneys were 36 in number, and the number of cases where the limit of four minutes allowed for black smoke per half hour was exceeded was 3 times.

DIPHTHERIA ANTI-TOXIN.

A supply of Diphtheria Anti-toxin is kept in stock at Dr. Ramsden's, M.O.H., Dobcross, Council Offices, Upper-mill, Stoneleigh, Springhead; and supplied free of charge for use by Local Practitioners.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Particulars of work done in connection with Infectious Diseases investigated and reported upon during the year: Smallpox, 0; Chicken Pox, 0; Diphtheria, 15; Erysipelas, 6; Scarlet Fever, 11; Puerperal Sepsis, 0; Puerperal Pyrexia, 0; Ophthalmia Neonatorum, 0; Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 11; Other Tuberculous Diseases, 7; Measles, 0; Mumps, 0; Whooping Cough, 0; Pneumonia, 5; Enteric Fever, 0.

Disinfection :—Izal, Formalin, and Jeye's Fluid were freely supplied.

Visits made to Infected Houses	44
Houses fumigated after Notifiable Diseases ...	32
Do. do. Other do. ...	40
Schools fumigated.....	23

CASES REMOVED TO ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

Fever Cases (Westhulme, Oldham)	14
do. do. (Ashton)	0
do. do. (Meltham)	2
do. do. (Hyde)	0
Small Pox (Runninghill, Dobcross)	0
Municipal Hospital	1

One difficulty met with is the time taken up in getting to the farms discussing matters with the farmer—a point, the importance of which cannot be over estimated, and of great educational value—and an examination of buildings and methods of milk production. It can easily be seen that the number of cows any one inspector can examine in a day depends greatly on the numbers kept on each farm, the proximity of the farms to each other and so on.

The value of the work cannot be judged by the number of actually diseased animals dealt with, although this perhaps may at first sight be considered the primary object, but even more by the moral effect it has in improving the general quality of the cattle, for where once farmers realize that an inspector may drop in at any time, those amongst them who may be willing to buy a “doubtful” cheap cow, become much more careful in their choice.

During the eight years this work has been in existence great improvements have taken place in the conditions under which milk is produced in this district, and even where buildings are still unsatisfactory the general state of cleanliness has vastly improved.

On several farms one can go round at any time of the year and rarely see a dirty cow or dirty cowshed, but in others progress has been less marked.

I think one is right in saying that where most improvements have been carried out the farmers appear to be more cheerful and prosperous than in the more retrograde parts where least has been done.

CONCLUSION.

I desire to acknowledge the courtesy and consideration extended to me by the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee. To the Clerk and Medical Officer of Health, for the assistance rendered in the discharge of my duties, I also tender my thanks.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

LEONARD TAYLOR, M.R.SAN.I., F.R.H.S.

Sanitary Inspector.

